

"NATIONWIDE"

This is the latest news I have for you on the programme.

1. They have dropped the Civil Service and closed shop as subjects.

In their place, they are to introduce questions on:

Northern Ireland - to be asked by a Catholic from Newry on why you do not negotiate with the hunger strikers; "Nationwide" assure me that they are having the questioner checked to ensure that he or she is not a rabid Republican or IRA supporter.

Defence - a questioner from Bangor on the siting of Cruise missiles in Britain.

2. For the rest, the questions will be:

Unemployment - questions from Leeds and Plymouth; if these questioners dry up, Sue Lawley may put two supplementaries: one dealing with the help available for moving house to assist mobility and the other on early retirement.

Prices - a questioner from Manchester with special reference to nationalised industry prices.

Economic Policy - a Norwich businessman wants to raise with you whether you are on or off course with your economic policies.

A white youngster from London on what steps can be taken after the Brixton riots to improve race relations.

/ Education ...

Education - a Tory woman from Oxfordshire who is worried about the closure of rural schools and the future of education.

Educational resources - a girl from London who says there are not enough text books available.

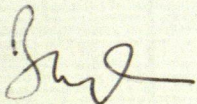
Defence - the questioner from Bangor.

And finally -

A question on your style of Government which may have to be put by Sue Lawley because the questioners they have unearthed so far are not up to it.

The colour of the set is black and light buff with some small bits of red in it. The programme says that if you were to dress in blue (possibly palish) this would be OK.

They are expecting you by 5.45 and they think that leaving No. 10 at 5.15 is reasonable. They want you in the studio at 6.15 at the very latest in order to line you up for a start at 6.20 prompt. Depending upon make-up, I think that if you arrive before 6 p.m. there will be no problem. But I have told them that you will arrive around 5.45, although you may be a little late. They know you have to leave immediately afterwards.



B. INGHAM

14 May, 1981

cc. Mr Pattison
Mr Vereker
Mrs Beilby

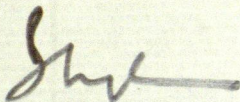
PRIME MINISTER

"Nationwide"

Viewers based in studios at Plymouth, Southampton, Leeds, Birmingham, Norwich, Bangor, Manchester and London will be putting questions to you. They will appear on a screen (not a small monitor) as they speak. BBC hope to provide you with a list of the viewers names when you arrive at the studio.

Your part of the programme will last for approximately 35 minutes.

It now seems doubtful that Civil Service pay will be a featured question or industrial relations legislation. Instead there is likely to be a Defence question on cruise missiles.



B. INGHAM

13 May, 1981.

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Pattison
Mr. Vereker
Mrs. Beilby

"Nationwide"

We are now clearer about the nature and format of the above programme which will be devoted entirely to your answering questions put to you by viewers in regional studios. We shall, of course, be having a briefing meeting with you beforehand, but I thought you might value an advance briefing on the programme which starts at 6.20 and runs to nearly 7 p.m.

You will be briefly introduced by Sue Lawley who will sum up your first two years, concentrating on domestic affairs to the virtual exclusion of foreign affairs. (Rather surprisingly, the programme has had very few questions on the EC).

This introduction is likely to cover economic trends (I have asked them not to forget the movement of inflation), Northern Ireland and the local elections.

Sue Lawley will then bring in viewers from the various studios to ask questions about the sequence of subjects set out below. I am assured that the participants are being selected not to pursue local or regional issues but problems which have a national relevance.

Unemployment (probably a viewer from the North)

- asking whether you really understand what it is like to be out of work;
- raising questions about mobility. *No: who move - Janin - Subover*

Geoffrey Howe: The last Budget - focussing on the petrol tax issue. *And the various laws.*

Taxation - the transfer from direct to indirect taxation. *Red Book*

{ Prices - of nationalised industry products and services (especially gas and electricity);

- the shopping basket.

/- Holding

Holding to your economic course - here a "disappointed" businessman is likely to be featured.

Northern Ireland (this subject may not be covered because the programme has not received any questions from Northern Ireland itself).

Law and Order/Immigration - they are trying to single out someone reasonably constructive who will ask what positive steps can be taken to improve racial harmony.

*And speak
New year
P. 111*

Cuts - education - closure of schools; provision of basic skills for the working population; shortage of text-books.

Primary School. the school 6 Jan.

Civil Service pay - here you may be asked by a Civil Servant about your attitude to pay research and the 7% offer; (I have been careful not to suggest to Departments that they should not give a Civil Servant permission to ask the Prime Minister a question - that would only get a lot of bad publicity).

Industrial Relations legislation - probably with specific reference to the closed shop.

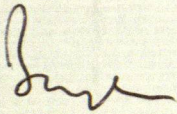
Finally, a more personal question about your style of leadership.

This will be followed by a few minutes of closing Q & A by Sue Lawley who may pick up points raised earlier. I personally doubt whether the programme will be able to cover all this ground in the time and I would expect some topics to be dropped. We shall be in touch with the programme tomorrow (Wednesday) and Thursday to get up-to-date information. Viewers have been invited to write

/to

to or telephone "Nationwide" with their questions and so far they have had over 1,000 letters; last evening they had 180 telephone calls as well.

I have reminded the production team that we expect a political balance among those taking part.



B. INGHAM

12 May, 1981